

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~.

Please REPLACE paragraph [0008], with the following paragraph:

[0008] A simple hierarchy is assumed below; i.e., ~~[[a]]~~ only that case is described wherein a first computer unit as manager monitors or, respectively, controls an arbitrary plurality of second computer units, the agents. This, however, only serves the purpose of a simpler presentation. It is possible also to apply the present invention in an architecture having an arbitrary plurality of hierarchy levels.

Please REPLACE paragraph [0021], with the following paragraph:

[0021] In an embodiment of the present invention, a computer system contains at least one computer unit that is configured such that the above-described methods are implemented. Such computer system includes at least the following components:

- means for encoding the digital message upon employment of the encoding format of the network protocol to form an encoded message;
- means for cryptographically processing the encoded message; and
- means for encoding the cryptographically processed message upon employment of the encoding format of the network protocol.

In an embodiment, the computer system also may include at least the following components:

- means for receiving ~~the~~ twice encoded, cryptographically processed message from the first computer unit;
- means for decoding the received message according to the encoding format of the network protocol;

- means for inversely cryptographically processing the decoded, cryptographically processed message; and

- means for decoding the inversely cryptographically processed message according to the encoding format of the network protocol.